WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.  A method of managing a workflow based on process definition information, comprising the steps of:

5  managing execution of a plurality of activities in a process based on process definition information, said process definition information defining said plurality of activities and a processing sequence between said plurality of activities, and

10  holding execution history information on said plurality of executed activities;

corresponding an activity set included in a workflow defined by said process definition information to a pricing scheme for a user associated with the

15  execution of said activity set, and holding the correspondence as activity set pricing definition information commonly applied for activity definitions included in said activity set; and

calculating a pricing amount for the user

20  based on said activity set pricing definition information.

2.  A workflow management method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

providing a relation, as an entry between

25  each user and said activity set pricing definition information.

3.  A workflow management method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

calculating said pricing amount using a
history table having a record for execution of each
said activity set, and a state management table for
storing a state of the execution of said each activity
5    set.

4.       A workflow management method according to
claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

providing a table for holding fee calculated
in accordance with the number of times of passages in
10   an activity set for execution; and

including fee pricing variable in said
pricing amount.

5.       A workflow management method according to
claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

15   counting the number of times at least one
activity set included in said workflow is passed for
execution;

providing a memory for holding fee calculated
in accordance with the number of times of passages for
20   execution; and

including fee pricing variable in said
pricing amount.

6.       A workflow management method according to
claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

25   providing a memory for holding an execution
time for execution of at least one activity set
included in said workflow; and

including fee pricing variable in said

pricing amount.

7.          A workflow management method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of:

          defining a pricing scheme for a definition
5   set including one or a plurality of activity definitions to be commonly applied thereto.

8.          A workflow management method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of:

          defining said pricing scheme for respective
10  process definitions each coupled to an activity definition commonly when said process definitions are the same each other.

9.          A workflow management method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

15          defining a pricing scheme for a definition set including one or a plurality of activity definitions to be commonly applied thereto.

10.          A workflow management method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of:

20          defining said pricing scheme for respective process definitions each coupled to an activity definition commonly when said process definitions are the same each other.

11.          A workflow management program which is read
25  into and run on an apparatus for managing a workflow based on process definition information, said program comprising the steps of:

          managing execution of a plurality of

activities in a process based on process definition
information, said process definition information
defining said plurality of activities and a processing
sequence between said plurality of activities, and
5  holding execution history information on said plurality
of executed activities;

corresponding an arbitrary activity set
included in a workflow defined by said process
definition information to a pricing scheme for a user
10  associated with the execution of said activity set, and
holding the correspondence as activity set pricing
definition information; and

calculating a pricing amount for the user
based on said activity set pricing definition
15  information.

12.      A workflow management program according to
claim 11, further comprising the step of:

providing a pricing scheme setting unit name
corresponding to a process definition name in a
20  activity set for each user, as an entry, in said
activity set pricing definition information.

13.      A workflow management program according to
claim 11, further comprising the step of:

calculating said pricing amount using a
25  history table having a record for execution of each
said activity set, and a state management table for
storing a state of the execution of said each activity
set.

14.     A workflow management program according to
claim 11, further comprising the step of:

        defining a pricing scheme for a definition
set including one or a plurality of activity
5 definitions to be commonly applied thereto.

15.     A workflow management program according to
claim 14, further comprising the step of:

        defining said pricing scheme for respective
process definitions each coupled to an activity
10 definition commonly when said process definitions are
the same each other.

16.     An apparatus for managing a workflow based on
process definition information, comprising:

        a CPU;

15      a workflow execution control engine for
controlling execution of said workflow including a
plurality of activity sets;

        a table for holding execution history
information on a plurality of activities in a process,
20 associated with the execution of said plurality of
activities based on process definition information,
said process definition information defining said
plurality of activities and a processing sequence
between said plurality of activities; and

25      a table for corresponding an arbitrary
activity set included in a workflow defined by said
process definition information to a pricing scheme for
a user associated with the execution of said activity

set, and holding the correspondence as activity set
pricing definition information,

wherein a pricing amount for the user is
added based on said activity set pricing definition
5   information.

17.     A workflow management apparatus according to
claim 16, wherein:

said activity set pricing definition
information has a pricing scheme setting unit name
10   corresponding to a process definition name in a
activity set for each user as an entry.

18.     A workflow management apparatus according to
claim 16, further comprising:

a history table having a record for execution
15   of each said activity set, and a state management table
for storing a state of the execution of said each
activity set,

wherein said workflow management apparatus
calculates said pricing amount using said state
20   management table.

19.     A workflow management apparatus according to
claim 18, further comprising:

a pricing scheme setting unit definition
information table for holding the number of times
25   counted for passages of at least one activity set
included in said workflow for execution,

wherein said workflow management apparatus
includes variable fee pricing in said pricing amount

based on said table.

20.      A workflow management apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising:

      a first pricing scheme setting unit

5  definition information table for holding the number of times counted for passages of at least one activity set included in said workflow for execution,

      wherein said workflow management apparatus includes variable fee pricing in said pricing amount

10  based on said table.

21.      A workflow management apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising:

      a second pricing scheme setting unit definition information table for holding an execution

15  time for execution of at least one activity set included in said workflow

      wherein said workflow management apparatus includes variable fee pricing in said pricing amount based on said table.

20  22.      A workflow management apparatus according to claim 21, further comprising:

      means for defining a pricing scheme for a definition set including one or a plurality of activity definitions to be commonly applied thereto.

25  23.      A workflow management apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising:

      means for defining said pricing scheme for respective process definitions each coupled to an

activity definition commonly when said process
definitions are the same each other.

24.        A workflow management apparatus according to
claim 16, further comprising:

5                  means for defining a pricing scheme for a
definition set including one or a plurality of activity
definitions to be commonly applied thereto.

25.        A workflow management apparatus according to
claim 24, further comprising:

10                  means for defining said pricing scheme for
respective process definitions each coupled to an
activity definition commonly when said process
definitions are the same each other.

26.        A storage medium having stored thereon a
15  workflow management program in CPU readable codes, said
workflow management program, when read into and run on
an apparatus for managing a workflow based on process
definition information, executing:

                   a code representing a step of managing
20  execution of a plurality of activities in a process
based on process definition information, said process
definition information defining said plurality of
activities and a processing sequence between said
plurality of activities, and holding execution history
25  information on said plurality of executed activities;

                   a code representing a step of corresponding
an arbitrary activity set included in a workflow
defined by said process definition information to a

pricing scheme for a user associated with the execution

of said activity set, and holding the correspondence as

activity set pricing definition information; and

5      a code representing a step of calculating a

pricing amount for the user based on said activity set

pricing definition information.